1: Linton E-5 (1926-27) 1933 FY8 Tanala FY8

PREFACE

This publication is designed to be the first of a series presenting 121
the scientific results of the Marshall Field Anthropological Expedition to Madagascar, undertaken on behalf of Field Museum of Natural History. The Tanala have been selected as the subject of the initial publication of the series because their culture appears to be archaic in many respects and because they have been, as yet, only slightly influenced by European contact. Contributions to the ethnology of other tribes will appear from time to time.

Madagascar was selected as a field for research in continuance of Field Museum's long-established interest in Malayan ethnology. This island is the westernmost point reached by Malayan peoples, and it was hoped that investigations there would throw much light on early Malayan culture. There were, in addition, many unsolved problems connected with the settlement of the island by Malays and with the possible interaction of Malayan and African cultures there and on the continent of Africa. The final solution of these problems must await further comparative studies, but there are many indications that the Malay settlement in Madagascar was ancient and that Malay culture preceded some of the modern cultures of African type in the island.

The expedition was made possible by the generosity of Marshall 122
Field. I left Chicago in October, 1925, and after a short stay in France sailed from Marseilles in December of the same year, arriving in Madagascar early in January, 1926. After a stay of two months in Tananarive, the capital, short trips for reconnaissance and collecting were made southward to Ambositra, in the territory of the Betsileo tribe, and northward to Lake Alotra, in the territory of the Sihanaka tribe. During July and August of that year, the northern part of the island was crossed from the head of Antongil Bay to Ampanihy, on the northwest coast, the Betsimisaraka, Tsimahety and northern Sakalava tribes being visited and studied. From Ampanihy I went by ship to Majunga and then returned overland to Tananarive with a side trip to Kandreo, in the central Sakalava territory. In November, 1926, I sailed from Tamatave to Farafangana, on the southeast coast, and after two months there, devoted to study of the Antaifasina and Antaimorona tribes, continued overland to Fort Dauphin. After a month's stay at Fort Dauphin I crossed the southern end of the island to Tulear, on the west coast, arriving in Tulear in April. There a month was devoted to the study of the